

Washington, D.C. — A Congressional Committee has approved legislation funding a variety of important Portland projects Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.) announced today. Blumenauer requested the funding earlier this year.

“I’m pleased the Committee recognized the value of these critical projects,” said Blumenauer. “They will all add to our community’s livability and provide a much-needed economic boost.”

Highlights of funding for the Portland region secured by Blumenauer include:

- \$90,000 to complete a study for the Eastside extension of the Portland Streetcar Project. The planned extension will add four miles of streetcar service in the Lloyd and Central Eastside Industrial Districts. It will also provide additional access to key eastside attractions including the Rose Quarter Arena, the Oregon Convention Center and the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry. The City of Portland’s existing Streetcar route has already generated over \$1 billion of investment. Blumenauer hopes that similar investments will follow the Eastside route.

- \$400,000 for the City of Portland’s Wet Weather Demonstration Project. Funds will be used to complement efforts by the City and its ratepayers who are investing almost \$1 billion over the next dozen years to control combined sewer overflows into the City’s waterways. Storm water is the primary way that pollutants reach local streams and rivers. The City’s program uses innovative wet weather pollution control techniques such as disconnecting downspouts, filtering storm runoff with “green streets and “green parking lots,” and building “eco-roofs” which hold storm water. All of these projects have the added benefit of creating jobs in a state with the highest unemployment rate in the nation.

- \$100,000 for the Portland Public Market Project. The project, founded by a group of citizens in 1999, will establish a permanent location for a regional farmers’ market. The project aims to provide high quality, healthy products for Portland residents, encourage growth of small agricultural businesses and spur development around the market site.

The projects are among the City of Portland’s top priorities for federal funding for next year. The funds for these Oregon projects were included in the Fiscal Year 2004 Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, and approved by the House Appropriations Committee on July 21. The House of Representatives is expected to approve the legislation later this week. The legislation must also be approved by the United States Senate.